

**MINUTES OF THE
POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS INTERIM COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, September 19, 2007 – 9:00 a.m. – W130 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Dennis E. Stowell, Senate Chair
Rep. Fred R Hunsaker, House Chair
Sen. Fred J. Fife
Sen. Michael G. Waddoups
Rep. Sheryl L. Allen
Rep. Tim M. Cosgrove
Rep. Bradley M. Daw
Rep. Gage Froerer
Rep. Kerry W. Gibson
Rep. Richard A. Greenwood
Rep. Christopher N. Herrod
Rep. Christine A. Johnson
Rep. Brad King
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig
Rep. R. Curt Webb
Rep. Carl Wimmer

Members Absent:

Sen. Sheldon Killpack

Staff Present:

Mr. Joseph Wade, Policy Analyst
Mr. Robert H. Rees, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Wendy L. Bangerter, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Chair Stowell called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. He introduced a new committee member, Rep. Curt Webb, and welcomed him to the Committee.

MOTION: Rep. Allen moved to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2007 meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Annual Report from Utah's Seven Associations of Governments

Mr. Roger Jones, Executive Director, Bear River AOG (Association of Governments) and the designated spokesperson for all seven AOGs, distributed a chart showing the seven associations' planning districts. He reviewed the history and origin of the AOGs, why they were created, and how they continue to function. He also reviewed budget information and encouraged the Legislature to consider funding the AOGs as they once did.

3. Implementation of H.B. 222, "Open and Public Meetings - Electronic Notice"

Ms. Patricia Smith-Mansfield, Director, Utah State Archives, gave an overview and progress report regarding H.B. 222, "Open and Public Meetings - Electronic Notice," passed in the 2007 General Session. The bill required the creation of a Utah Public Notice Website. She used a power point presentation to inform the Committee about the implementation of the website. She reviewed the responsibility it will be to administer the website.

Mr. Steve Fletcher, CIO/Executive Director, Department of Technology Services, updated the Committee on the technical status of the website project. He said they have set a target date of April 1, 2008 to be

ready for use. Ms. Smith-Mansfield stated that hiring and training of the administrator will begin by January 1, 2008.

Mr. Lincoln Shurtz, Utah League of Cities and Towns, explained concerns that he encouraged the Legislature to address in the upcoming General Session.

Mr. Joel Campbell, Utah Press Association, questioned a provision in the law regarding required notification of newspapers.

Ms. Bonnie Miller, Intermountain Commercial Record, expressed concern that this was to save the county money but she can see that it will not accomplish that.

Rep. Dougall clarified that another bill introduced in the last session was to save money, but the purpose of this bill is to increase accessed notification to the public.

4. Local Government Campaign Financial Reports

Rep. Bradley Daw, study sponsor, explained the points in 2008 General Session draft legislation, "Election Law - Financial Reporting." He explained the requirement for the county clerk to post campaign financial reports on the county's website or send them electronically to the Lt. Governor's office for imaging on his website. He said that campaign financial reports being placed on the Lt. Governor's website may not be searchable but will be stored in a repository making the reports more accessible to the public.

Mr. Michael Cragun, Director, Elections Office, Office of the Lt. Governor, expressed concern for the magnitude of what the bill would require of the Office of the Lt. Governor. He stated that their web system will have to be rewritten to match changes in the law. He also noted that a policy change is being made and will bring what is now a local function under the regulations of state government.

Mr. Lincoln Shurtz, Utah League of Cities and Towns, clarified that the intent was not uniformity, but to make information accessible in a centralized location.

Mr. Adam Trupp, Utah Association of Counties, echoed the concerns of Mr. Cragun for the added burdens being placed on counties. He agreed with setting a minimum standard.

Rep. Daw explained his intent that if a county posts a report on its own website, the county also needs to provide the state with an electronic link for the state website.

5. Other Items / Adjourn

MOTION: Rep. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. Rep. King was absent for the vote.

Chair Stowell adjourned the meeting at 10:55 a.m.